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ABSTRACT

This book outlines possible solutions to the problems facing higher education in the twenty-first century such as: (1) nationalization versus internationalization; (2) merit in academic pursuits versus equality of treatment; (3) the preservation of the past versus improvement of the present or changes in the future; (4) differentiation of functions among higher education institutions versus their homogenization in a world of mass access; and (5) commitment to ethical conduct in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge versus exploitation of the process for individual gain. The author argues that universalism is making, and will continue to make, advances. In addition, the book suggests a "twentieth-century convergence model of higher education" as an appropriate current solution to these conflicts, including the conflict over what is meant by equality and by merit. Further, the book proposes that higher education requires new rules and mechanisms to replace the guild norms and practices with systems of more explicit contracts and more impartial internal academic jurisprudence. Finally, opposing calls for returning to old forms or perpetuating current forms in institutional missions, the book suggests what might be called "pluralistic higher education" with several forms and ever-expanding functions. Contains an index. (Reference notes accompany each chapter.) (GLR)

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